

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1119

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

ALL EC CAPITALS 2090

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 3-4: EC/IRAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2667

1. DURING THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MAY 3-4, THE SUBJECT OF EC/IRAN RELATIONS WAS DISCUSSED. EC VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES MADE A PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL CALLING FOR AN "OUTLINE AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE EC AND IRAN (SEE REFTEL). ACCORDING TO COUNCIL SOURCES, SOAMES SOUGHT GENERAL MEMBER STATE BACKING FOR THE OVERALL APPROACH SUGGESTED BY THE COMMISSION IN ITS REQUEST FOR A NEGOTIATING MANDATE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WERE A FEW CRITICAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH BUT SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE

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CONFIRMED THAT SOAMES RECEIVED THE GENERAL ENDORSEMENT WHICH

HE SOUGHT. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF THE IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ESPECIALLY ITS EFFECT ON IRANIAN DEMAND FOR EC PRODUCTS. COREPER IS TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE EC/IRAN FILE.

3. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE EC COMMISSION WE LEARNED THAT THE COMMISSION EXPECTS THAT FINAL COUNCIL APPROVAL OF A NEGOTIATING MANDATE WILL PROBABLY NOT MATERIALIZE UNTIL MID-SUMMER AND THEREFORE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN ARE NOT EXPECTED TO OPEN UNTIL AFTER THE AUGUST BREAK. HINTON

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